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OLC 69-0914
29 October 1969

DD/ST# 4.2 4.2 - 6.9

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with William Woodruff, on the staff of
the Senate Appropriations Committee

1. I hand carried to William Woodruff today the Director's letter of 28 October covering two withdrawals from our reserves: the monthly withdrawal for the Radios and a withdrawal to cover a sensitive activity involving [redacted]. I gave Woodruff a backup memorandum on the latter item. He said he would have no problem in handling these with Senator Russell.

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2. I then brought up the matter of Senator Russell's reaction to the briefing Woodruff gave him on our prior withdrawal for [redacted]. Woodruff explained that in briefing the Senator, it was necessary to mention that the first attempt [redacted] had not been successful. Senator Russell expressed some skepticism and concern as to whether the Agency had sufficient confidence in the success of [redacted]. He also queried Woodruff as to whether, in his opinion, this project was absolutely necessary.

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3. Woodruff suggested to Senator Russell that he allow the Agency to give him the same briefing on [redacted] that he (Woodruff) had received from [redacted]. Senator Russell declined the offer but said he wanted to discuss [redacted] with Mr. Helms the next time the Director comes to see him. Woodruff said he has arranged with Proctor Jones, on Senator Russell's staff, to have Proctor call him the next time Mr. Helms visits the Senator. Woodruff would then get his briefing notes over to the Senator.

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4. I asked Woodruff if he knew whether something about [redacted] bothered Senator Russell or whether the Senator was developing a general reaction to "Agency projects which he might feel involved 'gadgets or gimmicks.'" I recalled Senator Russell's reaction to the withdrawal for the [redacted] project and his

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expression of pessimism after Mr. Duckett's briefing on [redacted] Woodruff said he hadn't really focused on this in quite this way but he thinks the Senator is developing a negative attitude about this type of expenditure. He also felt that Senator Russell might be aggravated by the fact that, in the presentation of our withdrawal letters, he is confronted with a fait accompli. Woodruff had no particular suggestion as to how we should handle these letters in the future but we both agreed that it was a problem to which we should give some thought.

5. I took this opportunity to bring Woodruff up-to-date on several items including:

- a. The Soviets continued emphasis on low altitude air defense with improved versions of the SA-3 missile and MIG-21 fighter.
- b. Apparent dissension among the Soviet leadership regarding China.
- c. The 24 October MRV test.
- d. The failure of the Soviet moon probe on 22 October.

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[redacted]
Deputy Legislative Counsel

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